

## Additional Information

### Tips For Observing and Photographing Dragonflies

Dragonflies can be loosely lumped into categories of “perchers” or “flyers”. Perchers, such as some of the skimmers, have a usual or favorite perch which they return to repeatedly. Some flyers have a usual route, a beat which they fly back and forth in the same area. You can pre-focus your camera or binoculars on that area to get a close look. Some have a large, long beat and are more difficult to predict, so some luck and persistence are required to find them perched. Most odonates are most active in middle of the day, but some are more active early and late, roosting most of the day in the shade. Be prepared, research and study your subjects first to know the preferred habitats. Binoculars, especially close-focus binoculars are a great aid for observing all nature subjects.

Approach slowly, getting closer and snapping away as you go (with today’s digital cameras, you can always delete later), a good distant shot is better than none and will be some aid in identifying later.

Try to align planes of focus; for example, a side view is usually good, so move to the side for a clear side view of the dragonfly. A “3/4 view” can show face and eyes as well as the side. Some field marks are more important than others in differentiating one species from another. Get more than one angle if possible.

Sun at your back is always good for photographic detail but be ready to use flash to “fill” in the detail on the shadow side if the subject is back-lit or in any dark situation.

Dragonfly and Butterfly checklists can be downloaded from [www.tn.gov/environment/parks/atbi/checklists/](http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/atbi/checklists/)

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### About ATBI

This brochure was compiled and developed by the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) group. ATBI is an on-going project in Tennessee State Parks and State Natural Areas. The goal of ATBI is to document all species in Tennessee State Parks, monitor long-term trends in specific taxonomic groups, and promote education about and preservation of all biodiversity with increased science and citizen education efforts. To access the ATBI database, go to [www.tn.gov/environment/parks/atbi](http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/atbi).

For more information please contact Tennessee State Parks, 7th Floor, L & C Tower, 401 Church St., Nashville, TN 37243. Email: [ask.tnstateparks@tn.gov](mailto:ask.tnstateparks@tn.gov). Phone 1-888-867-2757 or 615-532-0001

#### Notes

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#### Dragonfly References

Beaton, Giff. 2007. Dragonflies and Damselflies of Georgia and the Southeast. A Wormsloe Foundation Nature Book.

Dunkle, Sidney. 2000. Dragonflies through Binoculars: A Field Guide to Dragonflies of North America. Oxford University Press.

Nikula, Blair et al. 2002. Stokes Beginner's Guide to Dragonflies. Little, Brown & Company.

<http://www.odonatacentral.org/>. Dragonfly Society of the Americas. This site has checklists of dragonflies by county.

*Collecting of plants or animals in state parks and natural areas is prohibited. Please help preserve Tennessee's natural heritage by leaving plants and animals for others to enjoy.*

#### PICKWICK LANDING STATE PARK

PO Box 15

Pickwick Dam, TN 38365-0015

Phone: (731) 689-3129 (800) 250-8615

[www.tn.gov/environment/parks/PickwickLanding/](http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/PickwickLanding/)

#### TENNESSEE STATE PARKS

*All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI)*



## Dragonflies and Damselflies of Pickwick Landing State Park and Hardin County



Photo © Richard Connors

Welcome to the wonderful world of dragonflies at beautiful Pickwick Landing State Park! Of the approximate 156 species of odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) in Tennessee, 68 have been documented in this park or in Hardin County.

Above is a picture of a Widow Skimmer (*Libellula luctuosa*), male. A common "percher", widow skimmers are found near lakes, ponds and slow sections of streams. Both males and females have the solid black wing stripes next to the body. You can remember this one by: "the Widow wears black next to the body". The female has a dark brown abdomen with a bright yellow stripe down the sides.

# Dragonfly and Damselfly Checklist of Pickwick Landing State Park and Hardin County

## **Damselflies (Zygoptera)**

### **Broad-winged Damselflies (Calopterygidae)**

- H ☐ Appalachian Jewelwing
- H ☐ Sparkling Jewelwing
- H ☐ Ebony Jewelwing
- H ☐ American Rubyspot

### **Pond Damselflies (Coenagrionidae)**

- H ☐ Eastern Red Damsel
- \*H ☐ Dusky Dancer
- H ☐ Variable Dancer
- H ☐ Blue-fronted Dancer
- H ☐ Blue-tipped Dancer
- \*H ☐ Familiar Bluet
- H ☐ Turquoise Bluet
- \*H ☐ Big Bluet
- H ☐ Stream Bluet
- \* ☐ Orange Bluet
- H ☐ Citrine Forktail
- H ☐ Fragile Forktail
- \* ☐ Rambur's Forktail

## **Dragonflies (Anisoptera)**

### **Dragonflies Petaltails (Petaluridae)**

- H ☐ Gray Petaltail

### **Darners (Aeshnidae)**

- H ☐ Common Green Darner
- H ☐ Springtime Darner
- H ☐ Fawn Darner
- H ☐ Swamp Darner
- H ☐ Harlequin Darner
- H ☐ Cyrano Darner

### **Clubtails (Gomphidae)**

- H ☐ Bayou Clubtail
- H ☐ Jade Clubtail

- H ☐ Black-shouldered Spinyleg
- H ☐ Flag-tailed Spinyleg
- H ☐ Cocoa Clubtail
- H ☐ Ashy Clubtail
- H ☐ Cobra Clubtail
- H ☐ Dragonhunter
- H ☐ Acuminate Snaketail
- H ☐ Eastern Least Clubtail
- H ☐ Laura's Clubtail
- H ☐ Elusive Clubtail
- H ☐ Russet-tipped Clubtail

### **Spiketails (Cordulegastridae)**

- H ☐ Brown Spiketail
- H ☐ Twin-spotted Spiketail
- H ☐ Arrowhead Spiketail

### **Cruisers (Macromiidae)**

- H ☐ Stream Cruiser
- H ☐ Mountain River Cruiser
- H ☐ Royal River Cruiser

### **Emeralds (Corduliidae)**

- H ☐ Slender Baskettail
- H ☐ Common Baskettail
- \* ☐ Prince Baskettail
- H ☐ Selys' Sundragon
- H ☐ Uhler's Sundragon
- H ☐ Smoky Shadowdragon
- H ☐ Cinnamon Shadowdragon
- H ☐ Stygian Shadowdragon
- H ☐ Fine-lined Emerald
- H ☐ Mocha Emerald
- H ☐ Treetop Emerald
- H ☐ Clamp-tipped Emerald

### **Skimmers (Libellulidae)**

- H ☐ Eastern Pondhawk

- H ☐ Spangled Skimmer
- H ☐ Yellow-sided Skimmer
- H ☐ Slaty Skimmer
- H ☐ Twelve-spotted Skimmer
- H ☐ Painted Skimmer
- H ☐ Great Blue Skimmer
- H ☐ Blue Dasher
- H ☐ Spot-winged Glider
- H ☐ Eastern Amberwing
- H ☐ Common Whitetail
- H ☐ Blue-faced Meadowhawk
- H ☐ Autumn Meadowhawk
- \*H ☐ Black Saddlebags

#### **Documented from:**

- \* Pickwick Landing State Park
- H Hardin County—County records obtained from OdonataCentral

#### **Habitat and History:**

The Park contains 1,400 acres of rolling wooded and open land on the shores of Pickwick Reservoir. Pickwick Landing was a riverboat stop dating from the 1840s. In the 1930s during the depression, the site was chosen for one of the TVA dams on the Tennessee River. Most of the aquatic habitat is found lakeside at the edge of open water and in the bays.

#### **Good spots**

- \*Stream, stream-side and emergent vegetation
- \*Lake, lake-side and emergent vegetation
- \*Trails, sunny spots and seeps
- \*Edges of marshes and boggy areas
- \*Open areas and meadows